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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT N

TOPIC Military Information from the Zeithain Training Area

685403

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 April 1954

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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- On 20 March 1954, Camp Zeithain (1901) was occupied by about 500 to 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 30 percent with artillery insignia and 30 percent with tank insignia. The installation presumably housed a howitzer artillery unit, a rocket launcher unit and a tank unit.<sup>1</sup> On 16 March, 3 T-34/85 tanks were entrained at the Roederau railroad station. At about 10 a.m. on the same day, 8 M-3 armored personnel carriers, went to the training area from Riesa. In the late afternoon, BA-64 armored scout car and M-3 armored personnel carrier left the training area toward Riesa. On 17 March, JS-1 tank was entrained at the Roederau railroad station. A salvage tank and T-34/85 tanks left Goltz Kaserne. On 18 March, T-34/85 tanks arrived at the training area from the direction of Oschatz. On 19 March, tank left the training area toward Riesa.<sup>2</sup>

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- On 20 March, a train carrying 8 AT guns and 2 trucks and including 4 boxcars occupied by about 200 troops left Riesa toward Dresden. On 25 March, an engineer unit with 30 trucks arrived at the Zeithain training area from the direction of Grossenhain. On 27 March, 8 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns and 11 trucks carrying ammunition and equipment and arrived at the training area from the direction of Grossenhain or Riesa; and 12 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns and about 25 trucks carrying ammunition and equipment went to Grossenhain from the direction of Riesa. After about 2 hours, this column was followed by 24 trucks towing AA guns; 15 to 20 trucks with ammunition and equipment and 24 trucks, towing 85-mm AT guns. In the morning on 27 March, the following troops and materiel from Camp Zeithain were entrained at the Roederau railroad station: about 25 T-34/85 tanks, 4 JS-3 tanks, JS-2 tank, 9 JSU-122 guns, 5 JSU-152 guns and JSU-249 gun. At about 11 a.m. on 27 March, a column of M-3 armored personnel carriers, 8 trucks each towing 1 x 37-mm AA gun, 5 trucks with ammunition and 5 trucks each occupied by 8 to 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the training

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area toward Riesa. After 1 hour, it was followed by a column of 34 M-34 armored personnel carriers [redacted] 24 trucks each mounting 1 x 82-mm mortar, 8 trucks each towing 1 x 82-mm AT gun, 8 trucks each towing 1 x 57-mm AT gun, about 18 trucks each occupied by 10 to 12 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, about 18 trucks carrying equipment and 20 trucks carrying troops and equipment.<sup>3</sup>

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3. At 9 a.m. on 27 March, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were entrained at the Roederau railroad station. At 7 a.m. on 31 March, armored personnel carriers [redacted] went from Riesa to the training area. At noon, 3 T-34's and 1 JS tank were seen in driving school practice, 3 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] at the tank firing range, and 3 T-34/85 tanks and 2 salvage tanks in the camp. At 3 p.m., 4 repair shop trucks [redacted] were seen en route toward Riesa, coming from Grossenhain. Eight field howitzers -18; 57-mm AT guns, 8 rocket launchers, 5 T-34/85 tanks, [redacted] JS-2 tank [redacted] 6 armored personnel carriers, 10 tank trucks, and about 30 trucks [redacted] including some carrying equipment and radio trucks, were seen at the training area. Weapons and vehicles took position near Gohlis at 7 p.m.<sup>4</sup> At 10 p.m., 32 trucks with about 60 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, ammunition and equipment; 12 x 37-mm AA guns and 8 AA machine guns left the training area toward Grossenhain.<sup>3</sup> During the night on 31 March, a tank unit was entrained at the Roederau railroad station. At 9 a.m. on 1 April, 11 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] JS-2 tanks [redacted] and 2 salvage tanks were observed.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Comment. Units of the branches of service mentioned by source are believed to be stationed in Camp Zeithain only temporarily for exercises and firing practices.

2. Comment. These movements of small units are connected with training of the 9th Tank Div at the training area. 25X1

3. Comment. These movements of major units indicate an exercise of the 8th Gds Mech Div, presumably from 25 to 27 March. [redacted] units from almost all posts of the division were involved, in addition to elements of the unidentified artillery brigade and the 4th Gds AAA Div of the First Gds Mech Army. 25X1  
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4. Comment. [redacted] elements of the tank regiments of the 11th Gds Tank Div stationed in Koenigsbrueck were also stationed at the Zeithain training grounds on 27 March and 1 April. 25X1  
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